

December 16, 2000

Dear City and County Officials:

Over the past year, interest from the public and from local jurisdictions concerning the future of the Coyote Valley has grown considerably. The majority of this interest has been focused on the future development of Northern and Mid Coyote Valley. The future of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt, which covers the southern and eastern parts of the Coyote Valley, has received relatively little attention.

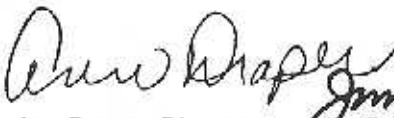
The Coyote Valley Greenbelt, as described in the General Plans of Santa Clara County, San Jose and Morgan Hill, is intended to be a permanent, non-urban buffer between the City of Morgan Hill, and the City of San Jose. Since its original designation by the City of San Jose in 1985, there has been relatively little development pressure within the Greenbelt, and consequently little need to explore the "Greenbelt" designation or its implementation in detail.

Recently, however, as development pressures throughout the county have been increasing, the need to look more closely at the Greenbelt designation, the vision behind it, and what can be done to implement it has become a higher priority. We believe that an important first step in considering the future of the Greenbelt is for the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose, and the City of Morgan Hill to re-affirm their general plan policies which support preserving the Coyote Valley Greenbelt as a non-urban buffer. In addition, all parties should work individually and cooperatively to implement their policies which promote the preservation and enhancement of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt.

A draft resolution to reaffirm each jurisdiction's support for preserving the Coyote Valley Greenbelt and interest in exploring and developing individual and cooperative strategies is attached. We hope that you will adopt this resolution or a similar resolution that supports current and future efforts aimed at preserving and enhancing the Coyote Valley Greenbelt. Following adoption of the resolution, it is expected that the jurisdictions will meet to discuss possible next steps for them to undertake individually or collectively.

Lastly, we have attached two draft reports: 1) *Coyote Valley Greenbelt: Implementation Challenges Report*, and 2) *Coyote Valley Greenbelt Report Appendices*. Both reports are resource documents and are intended to promote awareness and further discussion about the Greenbelt. Thanks you for your time. Please feel free to contact us individually, for further information about this important project.

Sincerely,


Ann Draper, Director
Santa Clara County
Planning Office


Jim Derryberry, Director
City of San Jose
Planning Department


David Bischoff, Community Development Director
City of Morgan Hill
Community Development Department

ATTACHMENT D

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
REAFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA'S GENERAL PLAN POLICIES PERTAINING TO THE
COYOTE VALLEY GREENBELT

WHEREAS, the cities of San Jose and Morgan Hill and the County of Santa Clara each have long held the vision, included in general plan policies and land use designations, for a rural greenbelt buffer in southern Coyote Valley separating San Jose from Morgan Hill; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Jose has since 1983 designated within its General Plan a 1,700 acre Greenbelt buffer (consisting of the southern and eastern parts of Coyote Valley) as a non-urban buffer between San Jose and Morgan Hill; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara and the City of Morgan Hill have subsequently endorsed the Coyote Valley Greenbelt and amended their general plans to support its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara has, since 1994, had General Plan policies calling for the retention of a greenbelt of non-urban uses and densities between San Jose and Morgan Hill; and

WHEREAS, the Coyote Valley Greenbelt serves numerous important functions for San Jose, Morgan Hill and the County as a whole including: preserving an urban buffer, maintaining a clear delineation between the urban limits of each city and shaping their urban form, preserving productive farmland close to a large urban population, providing a target area for land-banking as environmental mitigation for development elsewhere in the County, providing additional recreational lands for a growing population, and providing an attractive rural visual buffer between the two Cities;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby RESOLVE to:

- a. Reaffirm existing County General Plan policies regarding the Coyote Valley Greenbelt;
- b. Participate in efforts to further explore and develop individual and cooperative strategies and means of implementing policies concerning the Coyote Greenbelt; and
- c. Include key local and county-wide stakeholders in appropriate planning and implementation activities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Chair, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Deputy County Counsel